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Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

Statement submitted by Family Welfare in Brazil Civil Society, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement*

BEMFAM, a Brazilian non-governmental organization with special consultative status in ECOSOC, understands that the Cairo Plan of Action resulted in an important change on the paradigms that conduct the policies related to population and development.

The Cairo Plan of Action, and its relations with the Millennium Development Goals, redefines the universal access to reproductive health based on the concept of human rights, contemplating more comprehensive issues related to population, environment and consumption patterns, family, internal and international migration, prevention and control of HIV / AIDS, information, education and communication, technology, research and development. Specifically on sexual and reproductive rights, it reflects gender relations, which follows strengthening the inequalities that maintain the state of vulnerability of women, especially young ones. In turn, the Millennium Development Goals identify social inequality as one of the most difficult challenges that humanity faces.

In this direction, nothing is more urgent than achieving sustainable development that faces the challenges of poverty and inequality. It is basic to extend the efforts of international cooperation for the institutional strengthening of the developing countries and territories, as well as design and implement public policies for social inclusion, centered in education that provides universal access to health services, prioritizing the rates reduction of infant and maternal mortality.

In this context, BEMFAM have been working in Brazil, in other Latin American countries and in Africa in the field of social action, education, health and defense of sexual and reproductive rights, fighting for the overcoming of gender inequalities, which constitutes serious obstacle to general health, as well as to the exercise of rights and citizenship.

Considering the need to emphasize social development as a propellant mechanism for reducing inequalities, taking care of the necessities from the least favored and vulnerable in our societies, we call all members of the international community, governments, civil society and international agencies, to prioritize efforts to guarantee equality of opportunities regardless of gender, race, ethnic group, ideology, religion or sexual option, as a form to contribute to the reduction of poverty and to promote socioeconomic and environmental development necessary to improve the population quality of life.

*Issued without formal editing.